

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-15 EUR-25 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/161 W

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R 021345Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5555

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, IS

SUBJECT: DAHOMEAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS

REF: LAGOS 7942

1. PARA FOUR OF REFTEL REPORTED THAT FMG EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER ARIKPO PLANNED TO MEET MRGD FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE SEPTEMBER 26 TO STIFFEN DAHOMEAN SPINE AGAINST ARAB PRESSURE TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DRORY, ARIKPO UNABLE TO COME TO COTONOU, BUT DID SEE ALLADAYE BRIEFLY AT BORDER WHERE THEY HAD NO TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION, BUT AGREED TO MEET AT UNGA.

2. AFTER LONG TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KEREKOU AND ALLADAYE SINCE HIS RETURN SEPTEMBER 10, DRORY HAS IMPRESSION MRGD NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY CHANGE IN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. AT SEPTEMBER 26 INAUGURATION OF NEW ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL PROJECT, INFORMATION MINISTER COFFI, SPEAKING IN NAME OF PRESIDENT, UNDERLINED LONG FRIENDSHIP WITH ISRAEL WHICH CONTINUES TO MAKE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. A DISTURBING FACT, HOWEVER, IS THAT PRESS AND RADIO, WHICH COVERED EVENT, HAVE THUS FAR NOT MENTIONED COFFI'S SPEECH OR DRORY'S REPLY. DRORY HOPES TO FIND

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TIONED COFFI'S SPEECH OR DRORY'S REPLY. DRORY HOPES TO FIND

OUT WHAT IS BEHIND THIS WHEN HE SEES COFFI IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

3. RE ARIKPO'S COMMENT THAT MRGD IS UNDER ARAB PRESSURE, FRENCH, ISRAELIS AND WE HAVE NO INFORMATION OF ANY CURRENT OR RECENT PRESSURE. OUR GUESS IS THAT EYADEMA'S RECENT BREAK WITH ISRAEL MAY WELL DETER SIMILAR MOVE BY MRGD, WHICH IS NOT ABOUT TO FOLLOW IN TOGO'S FOOTSTEPS.

ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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